Mrs Stowe, &c — 1. November 1854
very interesting

Paris, Friday Nov. 11th
{Rue de Monsieur —
{Faubourg St. Germain.

A thousand thanks, my dearest Mary for your most welcome letter. To hear of your dear father's improved state of health is one of the greatest blessings we could receive. We are now thinking constantly of your exhausted condition, with aston-ishment & regret that it should & could have been so drawn upon for so long a time. When I learn-ed how much of your scanty strength had been spent in letters, the thought came to my mind, "is it not possible that I might be useful to you & to the cause at this moment, by taking some part of this correspond-

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ce? – Such of it as is a mere repetition of facts & principles – a preparation of milk for babes; – and such of it as refers to the cause in the United States. There must be much that you could not put the threads of, out of your own hands; but this apart, much must remain requiring rather patient toil than ability: & it is of this that I ask whether I could not relieve you. Much there must be which is local, & of which no one could take charge not "to the Manner born". But if amongst the hundreds of correspondents there should be any that you could refer to me, I should be most happy to come into communication with them. Affairs are now in a most interesting

State. The disease which we are labouring to heal has certainly assumed a milder type, and, except in some such desperate cases as Dr Campbell's, seems to demand the gentlest treatment consistent with firmness. He himself is perhaps of too little consequence to require much personal notice. I have received all the papers you have sent — the one directed by your father's own hand with the greatest satisfaction. We are now in the midst of our Bazaar labours — racing & chasing from the Arc de Triomphe to the Bastille, & from the Barrière de Clichy to the Observatoire, to find things costing 25 sous which will sell in the U.S. for 125 sous & be at the same time useful & ornamental works of art. I am happy to say we succeed, & are to have our

exhibition on Monday next. If all our friends were but in town, we should be able to make it a glorious occasion: as it is, with not more than a quarter of them, it will be "Magnifique, — vat you call pretty well." I have just received a very long & most interesting letter from Mrs Stowe, dated from her own house in Andover. I find her all that we could wish. Whoever evil-entreats & persecutes us while pretending to love the cause, it certainly is not she. It is my settled belief that the persons she feels most deeply interested in & expects the most from for the cause are the abolitionists proper: & this is saying much. Of how few who have named the name of the cause have we been able to say so. On the contrary the largest propor-

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tion of the newly awakened have ever "gone about to stone us," in their zeal for an Anti-Slavery-made-easy, which they are always in search of. But there is no such thing in Nature as an easy anti-Slavery: — no more than a royal road to Mathematics.

In speaking of the true regard & esteem which Mrs Stowe manifests for the Abolitionists of the Garrison Stamp, and the correspondence of her state of mind to theirs, I mean to be understood that it is in the full proportion of the degree of her knowledge of them & their principles & feelings. I think our dear friends the Patons would find her a very unmuse-ical person, while the misses themselves are probably very sorry they sent for her. I have a most sacred respect for the liberty of the in-

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dividual — I would never urge any right mind farther or faster than its own convictions carry it. I think Mrs Stowe's one of those right minds, that will not fail to be one with us. I think she has that rectitude of heart that may be relied upon to save the person possessing it. The world has been always greatly divided by the question "What is art good for?" one party declaring it was good for human nature, & the other no less warmly sustaining that it was "art for art" & nothing else. Now I believe her to be of the first school — i.e. an abolitionist & not a novel writer. I am glad to think so.

for to me the word artist-littérateur, means something very second-rate. My admiration & satisfaction in Arago, — the Great Soul just called home, — are founded in the fact that with all his immense Science & vast literary ability, it was a Man, — thinking, observing & ruling; — not a mere astronomer like Leverrier — a mere writer like Mad. Sand — a mere State tool like Thiers or Guizot.

He was a Magnanimous creature, who did not hesitate to say — "He (Victor Schoelcher) convinced me that the sentimental phrase with which my despatch to the colonies concluded, was altogether insufficient for the occasion," which demanded immediate Emancipation. I see this same Magnanimity

in Mrs. Stowe. She often says "If I had known then what I know now I should not have said that." She speaks explicitly in this last letter of her free labor views. She does not think it a sin to consume slave-produce but would simply give a free labor shop the preference, — cæteris paribus. It is painful to my mind to see funds consumed in searching for the products of free labor which might be expended directly in making all labor free; but I never could feel any division of heart from any faithful abolitionist on the subject. A hypocrite seeking a half-way-house, & finding it in a free-labor grocery, is another part of speech, as the regardless yankees say. I get the dear little advocate, — thanks to you

kindness. I wish Mr. Chamerosoff had as free a field of labour; but [you speak of Joseph Sturge's declaration of increasing caution] if J. S. is but cautious enough to creep into his shell, the Reporter may become so, I trust. What is to be the platform (as we say) of the proposed world's convention? Will it be worth my while, (one of the excluded delegates of 1840) to be at the expense of a visit to London, in any, the slightest uncertainty as to whether my credentials would be received? — Would it be worth Garrison's? — or worth a board meeting to appoint us to such a service, unless first assured that we should not be considered intruders? — I trow not.

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Happily, your past labours have made the course the committee may take, of but little practical consequence to any but themselves. It will be simply ridiculous to hold a "World's Convention" without the American Society. The part of Hamlet, left out by particular desire, would be but a type of it. Meanwhile, I grieve at the disappointment of any who are working in good faith for a World's Convention,—if disappointed they are to be. But I will hope better things.

All unite most affectionately in cordial regards to you & your father. We are with you both in spirit—would we could but meet in person.

Ever yours tenderly & truly M. W. Chapman